MONTEREY NEWS

October 2008
VOLUME XXXVIII · Number 10

The Town

Kutsher's Sports Academy

Marc White, owner of Kutsher's Sports Academy, met with the Monterey Board of Health (John Makuc, Robert Anelli, and Stephen Enoch) and the Select Board (Wayne Burkhart, Scott Jenssen, and Jon Sylbert) on September 8. He was accompanied by his attorney, David Lazan; Robert Harrison, architect for the Sports Academy; and Matt Puntin of SK Design. Also in attendance were Don Bernard, former owner of the Seven Stones property; Peter Kolodziej, Health Agent; and Donald Torrico, Building Commissioner.

The Board of Health reviewed the issues that had prompted them to send a violation letter and to impose a fine of $5,000. The permits that the Board of Health granted to operate as a camp and to allow food services this summer were conditional on the camp's meeting all the state and local requirements, and expired on August 16. This placed the town at liability because the camp was operating without proper permits.

David Lazan, attorney for Marc White, said that the camp had been forced to leave its previous location in Monticello, New York, where they had been for over forty years, because the property was being sold.

He also said that the camp employs 73 local people, and that over 600 people were in the area while picking up and dropping off children. He stated that the American Camp Association granted them a 99 percent in safety and health. Marc White, owner, granted over $50,000 in scholarships to local children so they could afford to attend.

Lake Garfield from Route 23 (photo Joe Baker).

Robert Harrison, architect for the camp, said that he has met with the building commissioner weekly, and that there was only one more item to finish. He had found it difficult to complete all the required work in the time given, partly because there were many problems to be fixed that were inherited from the previous owner. Donald Torrico said the Certificate of Inspection is pending for the main building, and that there is an outstanding issue of two structures being built without permits.

Matt Puntin of SK Design said that while the existing septic system appears to be adequate, the well will have to be reviewed with the Department of Environmental Protection.

There was some discussion about operating the Sports Camp for events during the year. Marc White said that when he bought the property, he was under the impression that Don Bernard, owner of Seven Stones, had used the premises for functions beyond a summer camp use. Bernard stated that he had received a six-month operating permit and listed the uses; he also had a full liquor license and was issued a special permit as a conference center. Mr. Bernard submitted a letter from surrounding neighbors in support of the Sports Camp.

However, the Select Board said that according to present town bylaws, use of the premises as anything other than a summer camp is not allowed. There was some discussion about how the zoning laws were restrictive and how best to allow the camp to have special events during the year, even perhaps by rewriting the bylaws.

Nonetheless, the Sports Camp was forced to reschedule a large wedding that they had planned for the three-day weekend of September 19 to 21.

Town Matters

Kathleen Wasiuk of the newly formed Affordable Housing Team (an unofficial group) requested that they be officially appointed as a town committee to explore the possibility of creating affordable housing in Monterey. The Select Board agreed to appoint a six-member committee (Marty Chernoff, Kathleen Wasiuk, Laurily Epstein, Liz Goodman, Monica Webb, Tim Lovett). Scott Jenssen will be the Select Board liaison.

Wayne Burkhart was appointed as alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for one year.

Highways and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes discussed the details of the Lake Garfield drawdown Order of Conditions. The drawdown is scheduled to begin October 15. Forbes and Scott Jenssen met to discuss further the Order of Conditions, which were unclear. Dan Moriarty and Forbes had a telephone conversation about the ramifications of the weather on the drawdown, in particular its impact on Lake Buel.

An estimated cost for the repair of Fairview Road was submitted and reviewed. The estimate, using current oil prices, is $173,000 for the oil and stone road, which is approximately one mile long.

The Curtis Road project cost $2,440.17 (not including work done by town employees).

Forbes will continue to call the District 1 Highway Office about an earmarked $300,000 for a salt shed.

The price of treated salt has risen from $68/ton to $89/ton. Scott Jenssen attended an all-day seminar put on by UMass concerning the use of salt and sand. The town adopted a "clear roads" policy in 2000. Richard Tryon mentioned that he would be happy for a fifty percent reduction in salt on his road. It was decided that if the "clear roads" policy were to be changed, the alternative would have to be studied and clearly defined.

Richard Tryon also discussed a study that he had done regarding paved roads

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in Monterey. Because of the high cost of maintaining paved roads, he feels that Monterey should not pave any more roads. Burkhart said the high cost of maintaining dirt roads also needs to be considered. Tryon asked why the road between the dam on Beartown Mt. Road and Tyringham Road isn't being fixed; the Select Board replied that the estimate for that job was $390,000, and the road is on the schedule for repaving next year.

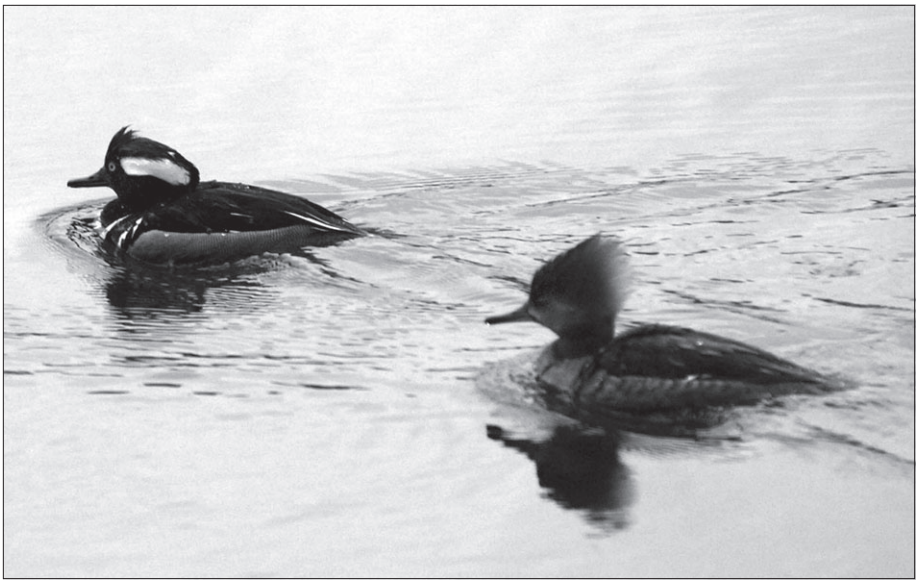
Police Blotter

- Domestic call, Chestnut Hill.
- Suspicious activity on Main Road.
- Assisted Fire Department with medical call, Chestnut Hill.
- Continuing restraining order, Pixley Road.
- Reported break-in, Gould Road.
- False alarm, North Cove Road.
- Lockout, Mt. Hunger Estates.
- False alarm, Mt. Hunger Estates.
- Abandoned 911 call, Wellman Road.
- Dispute with a resident and another party involved with roads, Brook Lane.
- Assisted with Josh Billings Runaground race.
- Hydroplaning car in front of Bob Heath's, cut up the grass.

Employee Compensation Committee

Because of a perceived conflict of interest, the Select Board had recommended that Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, who are town employees, be removed from the actual committee, but continue to operate on an advisory basis. The town attorney was consulted by phone, and said that even if disclosures of financial interest are filed, Backhaus and Forbes are still liable for conflict of interest charges, so it is to their advantage that they operate on an advisory basis only. Janet Cathcart, Scott Jenssen, and Michael Storch have been added to the Employee Compensation Committee.

Barbara Swann has been requested by several residents and local attorneys to provide the town bylaws online. Wayne Burkhart asked that Swann send a pdf copy of the town bylaws to Bill Letsky of Virtual Town Hall (our website host) so they could be posted on the town website (www.montereyma.gov).



Hooded mergansers, Lake Buel (photo Stephen Rose).

This and That

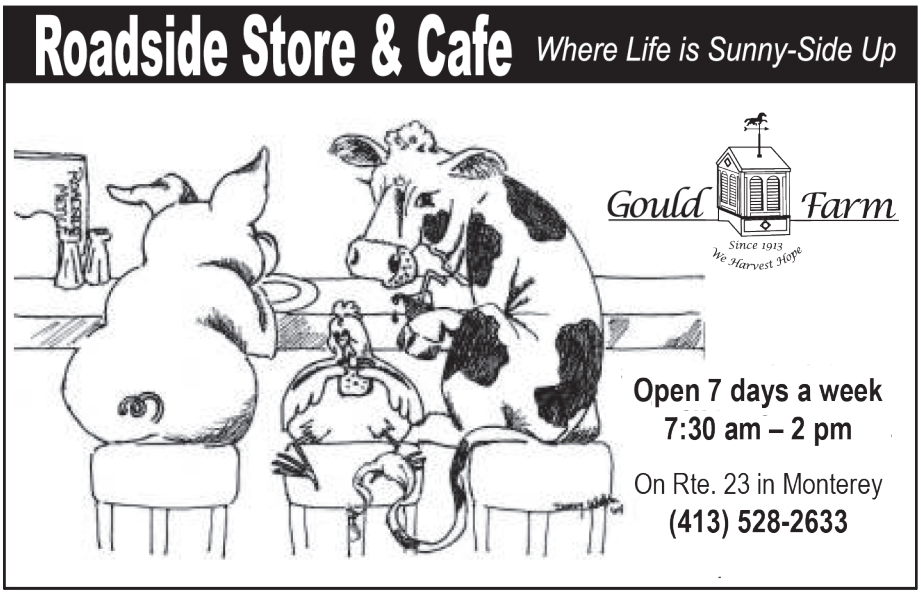
After consulting the town counsel and the town bylaws, it was determined that if the Zoning Board chairman assigns a task to an alternate, and if the alternate is not available to serve, then a vacancy would exist on the board, at which time the Select Board would appoint a new alternate. (This was occasioned by the absence of alternate Susan Cooper, who is taking a leave of absence because of her husband's sabbatical.)

Laurily Epstein asked the Select Board how she should proceed in obtaining a bylaw or zoning amendment for new housing. After a certain specified square footage, any additional square footage would be subject to additional requirements designed to minimize the carbon footprint of the building.

Barbara Gauthier reported that the $2,500 for the Lake Garfield plant study needs to come from a Lake line item (not included on the Town Warrant last year), or from a reserve fund transfer.

Maynard Forbes said that while the Friends of Lake Garfield is a good committee, there should be an official entity that has the ability to oversee and fund necessary activities on Lake Garfield, similar to Lake Buel's Prudential Committee.

— Sue Protheroe



Lake Garfield Drawdown Begins Oct. 15

The Monterey Select Board has announces that per the Order of Conditions issued by the Monterey Conservation Commission in May of 2008, drawdown of Lake Garfield is scheduled to start on October 15.

Please make certain that your boats are out of the lake by that date. Thanks to everyone for your courtesy and cooperation during your launching and removal of your boats this year. It appeared to go well, and we all appreciate it.

—Dean Amidon, Deputy Harbormaster for Lake Garfield

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Voter Registration for Nov. 4th Election

The last day to register to vote in Monterey in the presidential election on Tuesday, November 4, will be Wednesday, October 15th. The Registrars will be holding special sessions at the Town Offices on that day from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., where you can register in person.

If you are unsure of your status as a voter here and have access to a computer (there is a public computer at the Monterey Library), you can check your status on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. Type in www.canivote.com choose Massachusetts, and fill in your name and address (note that if you have moved around in Monterey you might try the address where you were living when you first registered here). If you appear not to be on the website, please call 528-5175 to confirm your status with the Town Clerk.

If you are not on the Secretary's website as a voter in Monterey, we would welcome your registration either by mail (mail-in registration cards are available at the Post Office in a wall pocket to the left as you enter) or in person Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 or Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30.

Second Quarter Tax Bills

The fiscal year 2009 Real Estate and Personal Property second quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due **November 3**, 2008. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Tax Collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). Those taxpayers who paid the second quarter with their first quarter payment will not be receiving bills. Payments may be mailed to PO Box 241, Monterey, MA 01245, or brought to the Town Hall. The Tax Collector's office hours are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Payments may also be left with the interdepartmental secretary when the Tax Collector's office is closed.

— Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

Absentee requests for voters who will not be in town November 4 can be made by letter, signed by the voter, requesting a ballot by mail or by filling out an absentee ballot request form on the door pocket at the Town Clerk's office at 435 Main Road.

Voting will begin at 7 a.m. on November 4and end at 8 p.m. Please prepare by checking your status and making sure you will be able to vote here on that day."

— Barbara Swann
Monterey Town Clerk

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School Committee Election

All ten seats on the Southern Berkshire Regional District School Committee will be elected in a district-wide election in November. The *Monterey News* had hoped to print statements from the candidates in this issue, but they were not received by press time. We now plan on running those statements in the November issue, which will be in Monterey post office boxes and in the General Store and Town Hall on Friday, October 31, so Monterey readers will have time to review them before the election on Tuesday, November 4. Look for them.

As reported in the September News, a move is afoot to have a candidates' night and forum in October where citizens can meet the candidates and hear their views; it has not yet been set up so watch for announcements in the General Store and Town Hall about it. The district towns' representation on the committee will be the same as before (Sheffield, 4 seats; New Marlborough and Egremont, 2 seats each; Monterey and Alford, 1 seat each), but all seats will be elected by a district-wide vote, so it is vital for voters to know all tthey can about all the candidates.

Below is a list, by town, of the candidates. Note that only two towns will have contested seats (Sheffield, with 6 candidates vying for 4 seats, and New Marlborough, with 3 candidates vying for 2 seats), but, to repeat, voters from all towns in the school district vote for all the seats, so Monterey voters will have a say on the contested seats.

Sheffield (vote for 4)
- Andy Fetterhoff
- Catherine Miller
- John (Jack) Pollitt
- Scott Sanes
- H. Dennis Sears
- Vito Valentini

New Marlborough (vote for 2)
- Herbert Abelow
- C. William (Bill) Dunsay
- Charles McSpiritt

Egremont (vote for 2)
- Charles B. Flynn
- Stephen P. Willig

Alford (vote for 1)
- Linda Silvestri

Monterey (vote for 1)
- Deborah D. Milke

Park Commission News
Halloween and Ice-Skating

The Monterey Park Commission is gearing up for the ice skating season. We are looking for individuals interested in volunteering to help set up the rink and maintain it through the season. The Park Commission is also making an effort to redo the boards that make up the walls of the rink. If any interested businesses, families or individuals would like to advertise on the boards at the rink, we will be offering a special price to have the ads made up and placed on the boards. All of the money will go directly to the upkeep of the rink and any activities that take place over the winter months.

The Park Commission is also going to be hosting a Halloween Harvest Party on October 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. There will be pumpkins to decorate (if any of our wonderful local farmers have a pumpkin surplus, they would be greatly appreciated) and games to play, and we invite all of the children to wear their costumes to be judged by any Monterey residents who would like to join us for the festivities. Prizes will be handed out and there will be plenty of snacks and fun to be had. If anyone is interested in volunteering time or goods please contact Bridget Krans at 528-3638 or bridgetkrans@yahoo.com.

Blood Pressure, Flu Clinics

The Monterey Board of Health announces that the normal second Thursday blood pressure clinic has been rescheduled this month to Friday, Oct. 10, 2 to 3 p.m.

The flu clinic will be held on Thursday, November 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Monterey Town Hall Meeting Room. The cost is $22.00 (free if you have Medicare). Please wear short sleeves and bring your Medicare card with you. No appointment is necessary. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Pneumococcal vaccine will be available for those eligible.

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Monterey Cultural Council Grant Applications Due Oct 15

Cultural Council heads-up: Our annual deadline for grant applications is October 15. Go to the Council website link on the Monterey town site (www.montereyma.gov) for details.

Otis Cultural Council Grant Applications Due Oct 15

The Otis Cultural Council is accepting applications for grants to provide activities, workshops and concerts, for both adults and children. Applications are available at www.mass.culture.org and on the Otis web site, www.townofotisma.com, as well as at the Otis Town Hall. Applications should be mailed to Otis Cultural Council, Otis Town Hall, PO Box 237, Otis, MA 01253, postmarked no later than October 15, 2008.

Sandisfield Cultural Council Grant Applications Due Oct 15

The Sandsifield Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2008, deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. According to Council spokesperson Courtney Maum, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Sandisfield, including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Sandisfield Cultural Council will also entertain funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket subsidy program for school-aged children.

The Sandisfield Cultural Council is part of a grassroots network of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. The program is the largest, most decentralized one of its kind in the United States. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each local council. As a result of a budget increase, the Sandisfield Cultural Council will distribute $4,300 in grants this year.

Contact Liana Toscanini, Sandisfield Cultural Council Chair at 413-258-8122 or xxtramktg@aol.com for specific guidelines and information. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available on the web at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp. and in the Sandisfield Post Office.

Thank You, Monterey Cultural Council

On behalf of the World Without AIDS Quilt quilters, the Center for Peace Through Culture, our little Monterey Meets Africa committee, and Dr. Ruth Engo (president of African Action on AIDS), I want to extend our hearty thanks to all the members of the Cultural Council for the interest and generous support they have given to this project. From the very start, with the grant money to create a 28-foot-wide quilt that would be a collaborative effort between a group of Monterey women and a group of children in Africa, you welcomed the idea and encouraged its execution. You then took it one step further and suggested an event to present the quilt. When it became clear that we had our hands full just completing the quilt by the end of the summer, you stepped in and organized a joyous event (on the night of August 31) that showcased the quilt and rocked the firehouse pavilion with African drumming and dancing and a fabulous potluck dinner.

It is our hope that the creation of the quilt will mark the beginning of a developing relationship between Monterey and a village, or network of villages, in Cameroon, and that it will be a banner of hope for a better world and a reminder of our interconnectedness with the global human community. So you have helped us get started. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

— Kathie Frome

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Monterey Library Notes

Special thanks to Moxie the dog and her handler, Barbara Wolf Dorlester, who have been listening to children read aloud! Moxie listened to two readers on September 20 and will return October 11. The 10 a.m. appointment has been taken, but the 10:20 a.m. is still open. Call the library for that space as soon as possible.

Our poetry sharings have been well received, and we will have one more before the colder weather sets in—we're changing the day to Saturday on October 11 at 7 p.m. Bring a poem to share to an appreciative audience.

This month I'd like to thank a donor who gave us a very large collection of audio book CDs. We've put them into the collection and made it easier to find. If you're looking for something to listen to while commuting or working, come on by and check out what we have. Of course, anything you can find on the CWMARS catalog can be had as well—any material is just a click away. If anyone else has any donations, particularly of audio CDs and recent DVD releases, we're happy to put them on the shelf for your neighbors to share.

Our youth book discussion group started meeting in September—a big thanks to Franny Huberman as she starts her fourth year. It's great to see the teenagers who started four years ago still coming back to talk about books and be with others who love to read!

Finally I'd like to remind everyone of the museum passes we have. We have passes to the Bidwell House, Ventfort Hall, Hancock Shaker Village, the Berkshire Museum, Mass MOCA, the Clark, the Mount, Norman Rockwell, and even a discount pass to the Mystic Aquarium. All the passes are different in how many people can use them, but you must come to the library to borrow them when you go to these cultural attractions!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

Community Dinners Resume October 15

The Monterey Community Potluck Dinners will be resuming on Wednesday, October 15. They will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, October through May or June in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey United Church of Christ.

To kick off the season, we have Lenox adventure photographer Dudley Levenson. For 22 years, he has been bringing artifacts, images, and stories from Asia, Africa, and South America to the Berkshires. He recently returned from Java, Bali, and Thailand with new perspectives on the fusion of East and West. Studies in anthropology were a prelude to the philosophies of classical civilizations and explorations among tribal cultures. His explorations have included Mayan and Egyptian pyramids, prehistoric goddesses, the influence of earth worship on art and theater, and encounters with shamans of the Himalayas.

Despite this year's delvings into the late Stone Age, living in a troglodyte dwelling on the edge of the Sahara, and patching the roof of his antique Berkshire barn, Mr. Levenson has a passion for contemporary crafts—handmade artifacts with symbolic meaning. Hundreds of artisans and their traditions are supported through Inspired Planet, the gallery he directs on Route 7 in Lenox. He speaks from the intersection of art history, comparative religion, and exotic travel.

The community dinner will be held on October 15 in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Church at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a place setting and silverware for yourself. All are welcome!

— Kyle Pierce

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Broadband Informational Sessions

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, two broadband information sessions will be held with Commissioner Sharon Gillett of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications & Cable (DTC). The Commissioner, Berkshire Connect, Inc., and Pioneer Valley Connect welcome community members to join them for two forums on the 25th: a morning session will take place in the Pioneer Valley and an afternoon session will take place in Berkshire County. Each session will include a discussion of topics under the purview of the DTC as well as an update on the status of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. More information about these sessions will be available soon.

— Sharon Ferry
Berkshire Connect, Inc.

The following exchange took place between Monterey resident Carol Ingher and Sharon Ferry about the proposed informational sessions. —Ed.

9/19/08

Sharon:

Why are there more information sessions being scheduled when what we need is Verizon to complete the high-speed internet that they started in Monterey (on the east side of the town center)? The remainder of the town is still unserved. Half of the town (the larger portion in population) has been left without DSL! We don't want the very expensive Hughes which reportedly is not good as downloads increase.

Forums are repetitive and action is what is required here and in the other towns!

Carol Ingher
Still on dial-up!

Carol:

I appreciate your email and can understand your great frustration with this situation. Unfortunately, this is a situation that is shared with many of our neighbors across western Massachusetts. The Verizon deployment of DSL service to select unserved towns leaves those who remain without the service even more frustrated than before. Many citizens like you are wondering why.

Verizon cannot be forced to provide the service, similar to that of telephone and electricity services. The answer to this question lies in the clarification of services that fall under what is and is not regulated by the government state and federal jurisdictions. This will be one of the issues to be discussed and clarified at the information session on October 25th.

With the Patrick Administration in place and the tenacity of our western Massachusetts legislative delegation, the proposed bill by the Governor last August became law within only one year. This is a tremendous accomplishment and gives us hope that the Governor's plan to close the digital divide in the Commonwealth will come to fruition! This plan is not associated with nor should be confused with the Verizon rollout of DSL. The Governor's vision is for every unserved citizen to have access to broadband, by having the infrastructure in place to support the best technologies available today with the ability to adapt to emerging technologies of the future.

I hope you will be able to join us on October 25th.

Sharon

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in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

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528-5850

Historian John Demos at Bidwell House Oct 11

Distinguished Yale historian John Putnam Demos of Tyringham will return to the Bidwell House for a talk and book signing on Saturday, October 11, at 10 a.m. to launch his newest book, *The Enemy Within: 2000 Years of Witch-Hunting in the Western World,* published by Viking Press in mid-September.

Demos is a foremost authority on colonial history and on witchcraft scholarship. He is a Bancroft scholar known for his groundbreaking study of family life in Plymouth Colony, *A Little Commonwealth,* and the story of the 1704 Deerfield Raid in his book *The Unredeemed Captive*.

His newest book examines phases of witchcraft history starting in Europe and in the American colonies prior to Salem. The Salem events focus on specific cases and characters such as Cotton Mather and Rebecca Nurse. The psychological mysteries at the root of witch-hunting are, in Demos' words, "all too real." In his cultural history, he tests various present-day witch-hunts against his criteria to help contribute to understanding both the "self and society" that produces the phenomenon of paranoia.

Books will be available for sale, and a cider and donut reception will follow the talk. Admission is $10 for members and $15 for nonmembers. For more information, call the museum at 413-528-6888.

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Rose-breasted grosbeak (photo Stephen Rose).

Bidwell House Pumpkin Fest

The Annual Pumpkin Fest and Heirloom Garden Harvest will be held as a free family event at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, October 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by the Garden Angels, volunteers who maintain the flower and heritage vegetable gardens under the direction of Ruth Green, the event promises fun for the entire family. Featured events include tastings of pumpkin recipes, Icelandic pony rides, games, and face painting.

A new feature of the Pumpkin Fest is an exhibit of New England landscape photographs by John and Carol Bedard, young artists from Lenox. The exhibit will be held in the Carriage Barn, and John Bedard will be on hand to photograph various events of the Pumpkin Fest.

Youngsters will be provided with materials for decorating a pumpkin and will be invited to take their decorated pumpkin home to help celebrate the fall foliage season. The grounds will be open for walks and exploration. The ongoing exhibit in the red barn on Early Farm and Garden Tools, prepared by Caretaker Chris Caccamo, will be open to the public free of charge. Come and see the old apple press, which celebrates the historic apple orchards on the Bidwell property. Heritage seeds and an array of newly acquired maple sugaring taps will be on display.

Monterey residents are asked to plan ahead for the early winter festivities and fund-raising event to be held at the Bidwell House on Saturday, December 6, from 4 to 7 p.m.—a magical re-creation of a nineteenth-century New England Christmas gathering. Donations for the popular Silent Auction are requested. For more information on events, please call 413-528-6888 or visit www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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Nature and History Walk at Bidwell House Oct 13

A Columbus Day closing event will be held at the Bidwell House on Monday, October 13, at 10 a.m. in the Nature and History program series.

George Emmons, local historian, author, and trustee of the museum, will lead a walk to the historic First Meeting House where the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell preached sermons, still held in the original form in the Bidwell archives. In 1928, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a marker at the site of the original Meeting House in the Housatonic Township, the demographic center of Tyringham and Monterey in the mid-eighteenth century.

To celebrate October as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archaeology Month, Emmons will lead visitors to the nearby "Indian cairns" on the property and answer questions related to other cairns in the southern Berkshires.

Please bring walking shoes and water for this $1^1/_2$-hour walk. On returning to the museum, visitors are invited to join the staff celebration of the Reverend Bidwell's birthday with cake and lemonade. Admission donations are requested. For more information, please call the museum at 413-528-6888.

ॐ

Recent Library Acquisitions

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Deception
Leatherheads
Ballet Shoes
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Made of Honor
Love Guru
The Band's Visit
Caramel
Purple Violets

Adult Fiction

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Silks, Dick Francis
Smoke Screen, Sandra Brown
The Keepsake, Tess Gerritsen
Home, Marilyn Robinson
Indignation, Phillip Roth
Devil Bones, Kathy Reich

Adult Nonfiction

Anticancer, David Servan-Schreiber
The Angel of Grozny, Asne Seierstadt
Einstein's Mistakes, Hans Ohanian

Children's

Brisingr, Christopher Paolini
Eclipse, Erin Hunter
The Greek Who Stole Christmas, Anthony Horowitz
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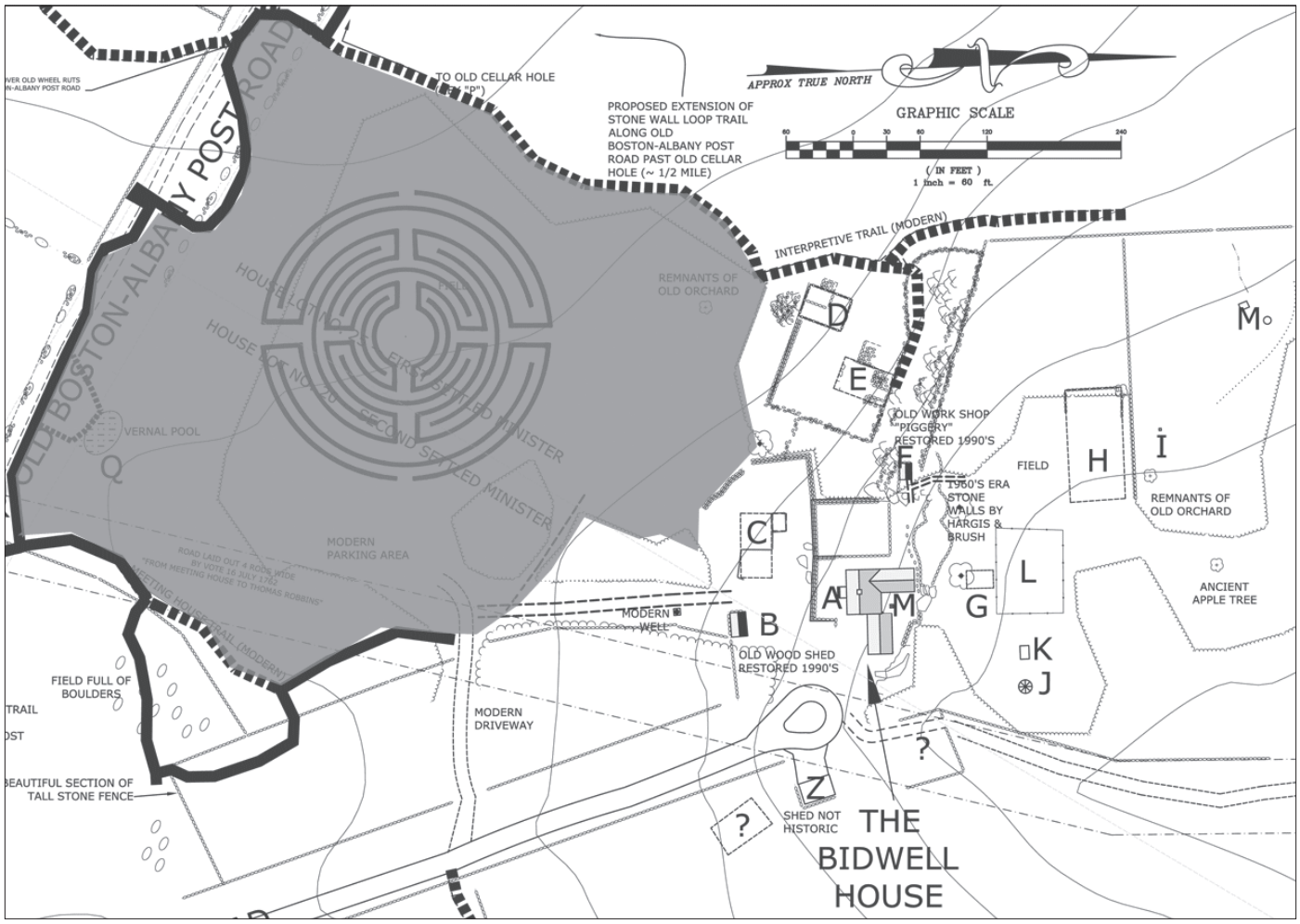
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PROPOSED EXTENSION OF STONE WALL LOOP TRAIL ALONG OLD BOSTON-ALBANY POST ROAD PAST OLD CELLAR HOLE (~ 1/2 MILE)
APPROX TRUE NORTH
GRAPHIC SCALE
(IN FEET)
1 inch = 60 ft.
INTERPRETIVE TRAIL (MODERN)
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FIRST SETTLED MINISTER
SECOND SETTLED MINISTER
REMNANTS OF OLD ORCHARD
VERNAL POOL
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Mountain Laurel

You and I walked into the woods . . .
It was late afternoon . . . the sun
Reflected off

The sheen of the leaves,
Was absorbed in dark shadows
Of bark and wood . . .

The mountain laurel . . .
We went to seek the mountain laurel . . .

Up, up the hill we climbed . . .

Into the thickest mass
Of tree and brush . . .

Always following the trail.

Then we were in the wonderland
Of spring. There was the feeling
As if my eyes wanted to cry

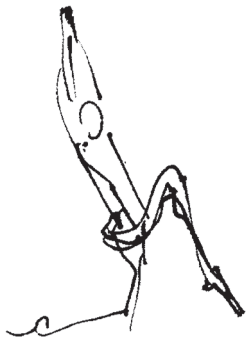
Because of the blissfulness . . .

And oh, it took my breath away —
That first glance,

As we rounded a bend
And white petals —

The late spring snow —
Leapt into our vision.

— Mark Murray



Latent Functions

With warming sun the trees extend their reach.
Green leaves, once droopy, now become alert.
Small branches seen to signal, each to each,
that they've emerged from stormy times unhurt.
A panoply of green exudes a sense
of peacefulness that I can feel within.
It isn't merely a coincidence;
I'm sure the causal impact's genuine.
So too, in the converse situation,
where storm-tossed trees exert their dark allure;
that's when I'm always prey to agitation,
and cannot get myself to feel secure.
Outer and inner slyly coalesce.
Allies in joy and likewise in distress.

— Ed Schur

---

four haiku

the picnic's over
car doors slam — a lone balloon
skids across the road

*

our well-maintained trail
now lies beneath a small lake
beavers own this place!

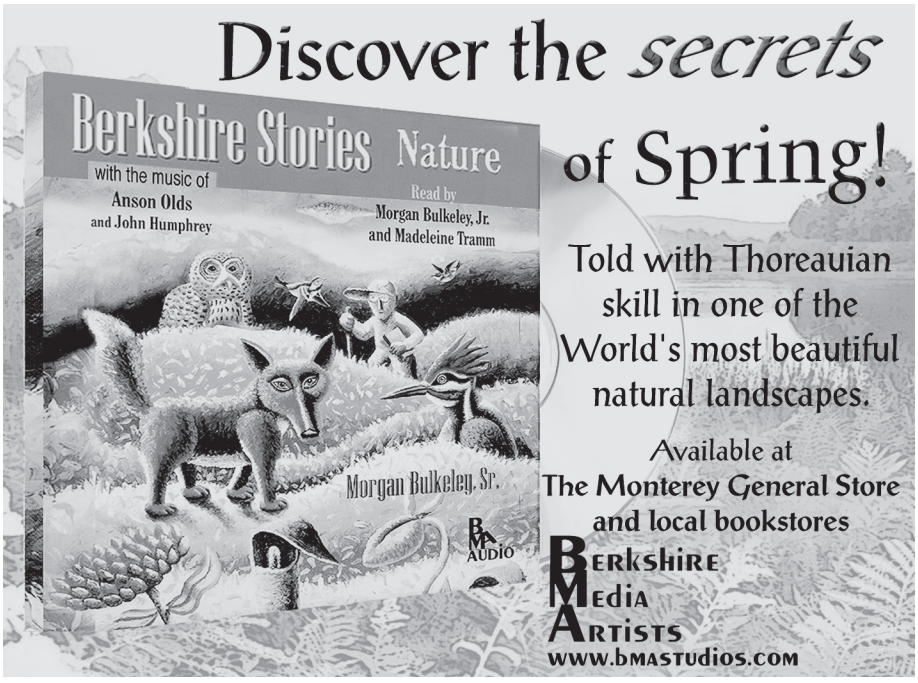
*

these familiar woods
and yet I have become lost
summer turns to fall

*

autumn on the lake
waterlight is flickering
in the red canoe

— Laura Denman



Dispatches from the Trail

Here's another report from Jeramy Vallianos on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Here we are. After all of these days and months of walking, we find ourselves on the verge of crossing the Columbia River and moving into the final stretch of this wandering journey through the Cascade Mountains of western Washington. Gradually, thoughtfully we move through changing landscapes and seasons, the sunlight fading, nights colder, wind with a bite and golden clear fall air surrounding us.

We pushed through northern California, hundreds of wildfires throughout the region, and breathing in smoke-haze sky. Through dry arid lands and coniferous stands, weaving around Mt. Shasta, appearing and disappearing behind smoke blankets in the distance. Slowly, daily feeling the change to the more temperate climate of the Pacific Northwest, dropping into deep ravines and finding the familiar species, tall old incense cedar rising through the mist, thick cracked-bark Douglas fir groves, yew trees, moss-draped big leaf maple, sword and maidenhair ferns tucked into the shadows beside cool clear creeks.

Near the California/Oregon border I pulled up with an ankle injury, a strained tendon that was bad enough that I wasn't able to put weight on it. We hobbled to the next road crossing to find a fire crew sitting in preparation for the next call. After an attempt at walking on, we turned back to catch a ride with a story-filled helicopter repairman. Two days later we tried walking again and realized that my foot was going to need some rest. Just over a week later we found ourselves in Ashland, Oregon, with a lighter pack (sans guitar), clad with a new ankle brace, and 140 miles north of where we had gotten off the trail (saving ourselves some October hiking). We spent a day with some hiker friends and then set off into the dry afternoon to begin walking again. The time lapse was evident all around us, wildflowers spent and crumbling in the heat, ripe patches of thimble and huckleberries, the days noticeably shorter, even new aches and pains and a seeming loss of our trail legs. Within a few days they were back, as was the methodical pace of walking and the forest ... a slower reality than our highflying days in town and at Eugene's Indian lunch buffet.

Traveling through Serena's home region of western Oregon, we stepped through the grasslands and forests of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument. Awaking in the dark waning-moon night there to the piercing howl scream of a cougar close by. Adrenaline rushing and listening intently as it called out many times through the darkness. We spent the majority of two days passing through this landscape where the Great Basin and Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges meet, a patchwork of private and public lands, not yet funded enough to form a complete monument. Days later we watched and listened as the red rising sun climbed over the mountains above Crater Lake, mats of clouds sailing overhead, incredibly blue marine water interacting with gusting winds and shifting patterns unfolding across the surface. Swimming in lakes, rivers, and cold rains, a front moving through and wind driving snow specks as we crossed under the Three Sisters volcanoes, looking up to the rounded red peak of South Sister before she was enveloped by clouds.

Thick forests, lake basins, renegade survivalist mosquito bands somehow braving the cold, big-berried bear scat, and the massive volcanic Cascade Mountains. Along with this another familiar mark of the Northwest, tracts and tracts of clear-cuts, old and new, walking through some active logging operations even, shrill machinery grinding and great old cedars and firs with spray paint markings of doom. We've scratched through these patches of choked brush and even-aged young spindling stands scarring the mountainsides from the Trinity region up into Oregon national forest and bureau of land management lands.

And now, sitting beside the rolling Columbia River, as close to sea level as we'll be along this trail, preparing for the Washington Cascades. With the final push of our hike before us, we also hope to close the Walk for Wildlands fundraiser with success. Each of the three projects and organizations will greatly benefit from any contribution, and sponsoring our hike will help to promote the completion of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument through the Pacific Forest Trust, protect the Pacific Crest Trail corridor with the PCTA, and work to guide sound policy with the Cascadia Ecosystem Advocates. Please consider sponsoring this project at www.walkforwild.org; no contribution is too small or large.

Thank you to all who have read, responded, contributed, and helped us along the way! Serena and I will update more photos and journals as we are able through the final days of this venture. Happy falltime. Peace.

— Jeramy

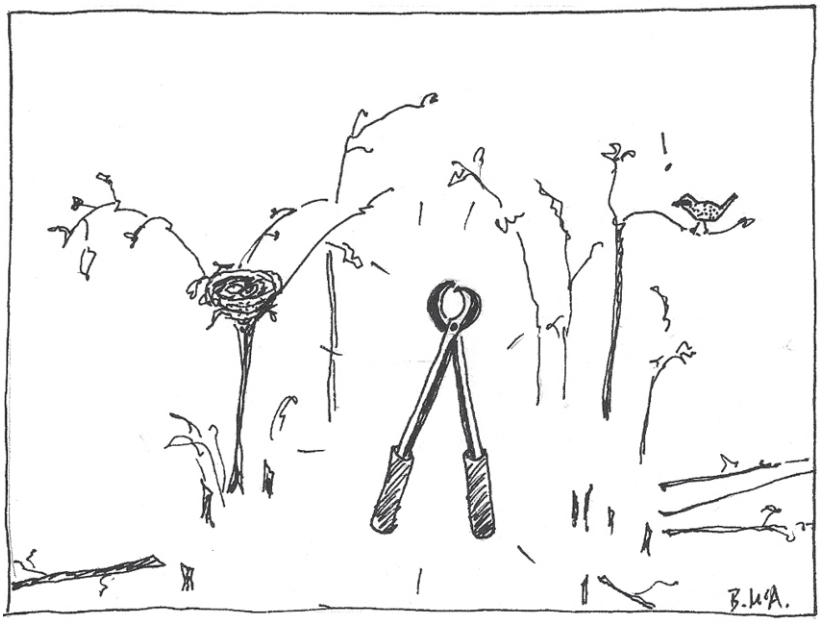
Collateral Damage in Little Wyoming

With my tax dollars I have done a lot of work all over the world in the name of "protecting US interests abroad." I call it work, and a young visitor who is a member of the US Army Special Forces called it work, also, because it is his job. One difference between us is that he does the work directly and I do it by my financial support. It is the same work, though.

The direct work of my busy days looks harmless enough, even constructive sometimes. I grow food, teach people, make maple syrup and play music in a band. I also wash dishes, sweep the floor, carry wood, tote water, collect eggs, can tomatoes. What is it besides my tax dollars that makes me think about that young visitor whose work is so much more secret than mine (but we know what it is from his training)? It is the harm I do, the violence I commit against others as I do my job as I see it: protecting my interests at home.

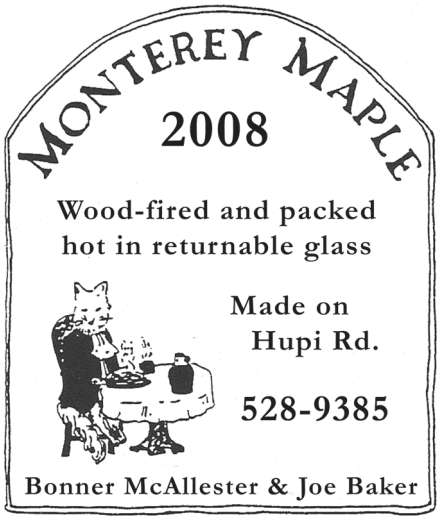
Start with growing food. The trees have grown up around here, shading the south and west sides of the garden. We cut down some trees. Suckers popped up from the big stumps and I waded in there with the clippers, thinking to get them while they are small and avoid the chainsaw next time. Quiet work, you can hear the birds and the satisfying snick of the loppers. Walk it to the brush pile, smell the cut greenery.

But when I went back to work, just about to snick down a little wild dogwood, I saw the nest. About three feet off the ground in a fork, neatest little cup, with a head and tail visible. Black mask, olive back, holding still. I backed away, conscious of the huge change I had wrought in this bird's nesting place. I'd cleared right up to it, stopping just short of toppling the nest itself. No more shade, no more privacy—maybe our cats would find the place, maybe the sun would be too much for this incubating parent.



I halted operations immediately. There's plenty of other work to be done, I never needed to be chopping and lopping right at egg-sitting time! I just didn't think about it. For the next few days I checked back. The leaves of the bush were curling up in shock at so much sun and heat. The bird hung on for about a day and a half and then he was gone. I never saw the female. There were four eggs in the nest, small and speckled with deep reddish brown. Each time I checked I had less reason to hope they would survive. Finally I knew for sure I had stopped four common yellowthroats from making it, from growing up to cry, "Witchity, witchity!" in our orchard, to gobble up cankerworms, tent caterpillars, leaf-hoppers, and generally brighten the world (well, maybe not the world of the caterpillars, leaf-hoppers, et al).

This was collateral damage, certainly. I never meant to harm the warbler family, just tidy up that part of the place we've always called Little Wyoming, right in front of the garden, with its sandy soil and aspens and pines. Cutting the trees that had gotten too tall for our interests



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uphill, managing the growth there so it didn't happen again—that's all I meant to do. So I could grow our food.

Collateral damage is a military term. It is damage "aside from that which was intended." I wonder if intent or lack of it makes much difference to anyone but the perpetrator (me, in this case). I get to say, "I didn't mean it!" The birds go off and maybe make another nest, start another clutch. The first, abandoned eggs sit there for a couple of weeks and then one day they, too, are gone and I feel a little better thinking some critter has at least had a meal out of all this.

This would be the collateral upside of the situation, not intended by me, so I can't take the credit. But can I also dodge the blame, just because I didn't think?

I don't think when I pay my taxes. If I did, I probably couldn't pay them (I hope I couldn't). Maybe I'd think: this money will go to support government projects such as hospitals and schools, highways and parks, grants for projects that help people and maybe even protect endangered species of plants and animals. I could still claim collateral impunity. I could say, "I didn't mean it!" when I heard about the abandoned nests and so forth all around the world, the work being done to protect my interests abroad and keep me safe. I could say, "I was thinking about the other things, the good things. I just didn't think enough."

It is too much to keep track of. Bad enough having to remember when the warblers get done with their nests so I can get back to lopping the bushes. I know I don't think enough, and it's not because I can't. It's because I don't want to. I'd never get out of bed in the morning, just lie there all day thinking and thinking, not daring to make any moves for fear many of them would be intentional. Intentional and damaging.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Author Simon Winchester at Sandisfield Arts Center

He's a best-selling author, he's British, and he's Berkshire-based. Join Simon Winchester at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, October 11, as he discusses his riveting new book, *The Man Who Loved China,* and the remarkable country it profiles. A nonfiction writer, journalist, broadcaster, and sometimes-gardener, Simon Winchester is the acclaimed author of such bestsellers as *Krakatoa* and *The Professor and the Madman*. Hailed as an "epic and intimate," *The Man Who Loved China* follows the extraordinary life of the brilliant Cambridge scientist Joseph Needham as he delves into the secrets and intellectual treasures of a country that both perplexes and inspires. Gripping, informative, and certainly timely, this is a lecture not to be missed.

Tickets to the 8 p.m. lecture are $20. Reservations are recommended at 413-258-4100. For complete program information, visit SAC's website, www.sandsifieldartscenter.org.

Just Wondering

I'm sure most of you who are familiar with Lake Garfield have noticed the latest fad in dock styles that has emerged over the past several years and is fast becoming the latest in dock accoutrements: plastic plumbing pipes (aka PVC)! Just wondering, am I the only one who thinks this is a bad fad? Come on, there's got to be a better way to construct docks without making them look like bathrooms. And even in bathrooms, they put them behind the walls! Could it be that the dock builders and plumbers are in cahoots in some way so as to blur the lines between bathrooms and docks, so we will all want more of both? And what's next? Decks with PVC covered posts? And what to do with the PVC (sounds a little like PCB, doesn't it) docks when they go out of style? They are indestructible and non-biodegradable, with a half-life of a million years I imagine, so do we ship them off to Yucca Mountain too?

And what was so bad about the good old iron pipes with tennis balls on top? Seemed very functional, and you could vary the colors of the balls from white to green to orange! So, OK, the dog would always steal them and not give them back, but it was good fun. I would think that the dogs would like them back as well, as the PVC is hard to chew and bad for their teeth. My guess is that PVC, was just the easiest thing to do at the time, and like with so many things these days, function preceded form.

Just wondering—is it just me, or should the PVC stay in the bathroom?

— Robert Johnson

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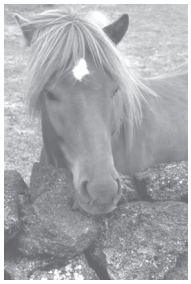

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Next Year's Garden

Cool sunny days and even cooler, early nights have led, as usual, to regrets for a quick end to one more summer. This is actually a great time to plan for next year's garden, which is the best antidote to summer's-over blues that I've found yet. Fall weather lasts so much longer than what we call spring, and next year there will be so much to do in such a short period of time. Like every local gardener I seem to wait and wait for the right time to plant in spring, only to discover that suddenly it is Memorial Day and everything is late! It is so much easier to get at least a few of those projects on my list out of the way right now. Of course this means we're going to have to talk about fall cleanup, but let's put that off for a bit and focus on a few other more enjoyable tasks. Looking over this year's garden, getting the spring bulbs in the ground, and setting things up for next year's planting will get me outside a lot faster than picking up that rake.

The first and most obvious thing to do is the one I always find the hardest. It is time to walk through the garden and figure out what worked and what didn't. Actually that's the easy part. What's next to impossible is writing it down! This year I'm determined to make some notes about what plants had too much shade, or sun, or grew so high they fell over—anything to short-circuit the process of making the same mistakes all over again next year. For example, the vegetable gardens need scrutiny around here. The beds just didn't get the hours of direct sun that I thought they would, so either the beds should be moved or the plants grown in them have to change. No doubt the plants will get moved around first, and now is the best time to make a map for next year.

The next and by far the most enjoyable fall project, for me, is the bulbs. Planting the daffodils, tulips, squills, crocuses—you name it—conjures up so many delightful expectations of spring that I put thoughts of the winter cold away for a while. Every year I try to include a few new experiments that will hopefully lead to beautiful surprises next year. This time it's native lady slippers. They are an expensive treat, but so special. If you plant lady slippers, make sure your supplier guarantees that the plants have not been gathered from the wild. So many advances have occurred in horticultural reproductive techniques in recent years that there is no excuse for taking plant material from native habitats. You can support the responsible plant suppliers by making sure you know where the bulbs and plants come from.

The so-called lesser bulbs (meaning not the tulips, daffodils, or lilies) are wonderful to plant for next year, and they can often be planted in large quantities at reasonable expense. Some of my favorites include *Allium caeruleum,* the ornamental onion with small intense blue flowers, and *Allium flavum* with its bright yellow clusters that look like tiny fireworks. For moist or even damp soil, the tall blue Camassias with their two-to-three-foot spikes of flowers really stand out. *Leucojum aestivum,* the giant snowdrop, sends up its drooping white bells at the same time as the Camassias. They make a great combined planting. And don't forget the dwarf irises in bright blues, yellows, and purples. These small, hardy flowers can be squeezed in almost anywhere and will last for years.

Early fall is also a fine time to lay out new planting beds for next year. The soil is relatively dry and easily worked. If you want to create new beds where grass currently grows, you can turn the clumps upside down right on top of the newly cultivated soil. By next spring all the grass underneath will have died and added some extra nutrients to the bed in the process. You can also add compost to new and existing beds now. In recent years many gardening pros have recommended adding compost right on top of existing soil without working it into the bed too much, and I find that this technique works just

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fine. By spring the earthworms and other soil creatures will have mixed the whole thing up quite nicely. Here's a word of caution about manure: if it is new, manure really should be worked in. Leaving raw manure on top of your beds leads to too much nutrient run-off in the winter rains and spring thaw, and risks contamination of waterways. Whether you use compost or manure, don't leave it bare. Planting a cover crop of winter rye, clover, or some other legume will keep your new material in place. In the spring, just turn everything under and use that "green manure" to further enrich your soil.

While you are thinking about planting beds, how about setting up some new cold frames for next year? For me late winter has generally turned into a time of toe-tapping impatience, waiting for the first days of spring. Often I have wished that there were cold frames ready for the earliest plantings of lettuces, broccoli, and peas. This year, happily, it's all different. The frames are already in place so that the soil can warm up fast when we get those first hints of a change in weather. Cold frames, if you haven't used them, are so easy. They can consist simply of a wooden frame on top of the soil with a glass or plastic covering to let in the sun and moderate the cold. Many gardening books have cold frame designs to guide in construction. I thought hard about the glass versus plastic issue recently and chose glass in the end. If you go with plastic, you may want to check to see what kind of plastic you are working with. Polycarbonate, the material used in Plexiglas, Lexan, and so on, is now known to leach potentially toxic chemicals into the soil and probably should not be used around food. The ubiquitous PVC should be avoided absolutely. Such warnings seem to change all the time, of course, and it is hard to keep up. At the very least you might want to do a little research on the products you plan to use before making a choice of cold frame coverings.

Next year, after you eat all your early crops from your cold frames, you can use the frames to get winter-hardy vegetables started in late summer. Then when the weather gets cold you can still harvest fresh greens from your own garden. Growing winter-hardy crops is my latest obsession, and it's a great treat to go outside right now and see the spinach, leeks, and salad greens getting bigger by the day. This winter the plants will go dormant but they will remain fresh and edible out there for months. Undoubtedly this is a story for another time! Just keep in mind that your cold frames can greatly expand the possibilities for growing fresh food throughout the year and are worth the effort spent in setting them up now.

Ah well, we can't put this off any longer. To paraphrase my partner, no one ever wants to do the fall cleanup but everyone feels so righteous when it's done. Amen. Let's start with the big question—to cut or not to cut? In the last decade many garden designers have advocated leaving all the dead plants standing in the garden through the winter. I have to agree that the photos of gardens in snow and ice are gorgeous, but mine never seem to look like that. I've adopted a compromise position on this matter. Most of my plants get cut down, with the exception of the seed-producing varieties that the birds love. So the sedums, Echinacea and black-eyed Susans all get spared. Add to that the ornamental grasses, and you can have quite a few plants standing. This keeps the garden from looking flat and barren all winter. The leaves, on the other hand, have to go. It makes no sense to work so hard on the garden all summer and then invite the rodents in to dine on my plants all winter. Removing the leaves will take away the rodents' hiding places. Later, when the ground has frozen, some gardeners recommend covering the flower beds with pine boughs to keep the freeze-thaw cycles from heaving the plants out of the ground. This surely works, too, but I never seem to have the pine boughs or the gumption to go out there and do it, and the plants do okay. The only time I really worry is when we have an open or snowless winter. Then some extra mulch or straw will really help keep your plants alive until spring.

Once the stalks are cut down and the leaves raked out, it's time to heap everything on the compost pile and head for the couch. Before you know it the seed catalogs will start to hit the mailbox and provide fodder for all my dreams of floral glory next year. Who could ask for more?

— Ruth Green

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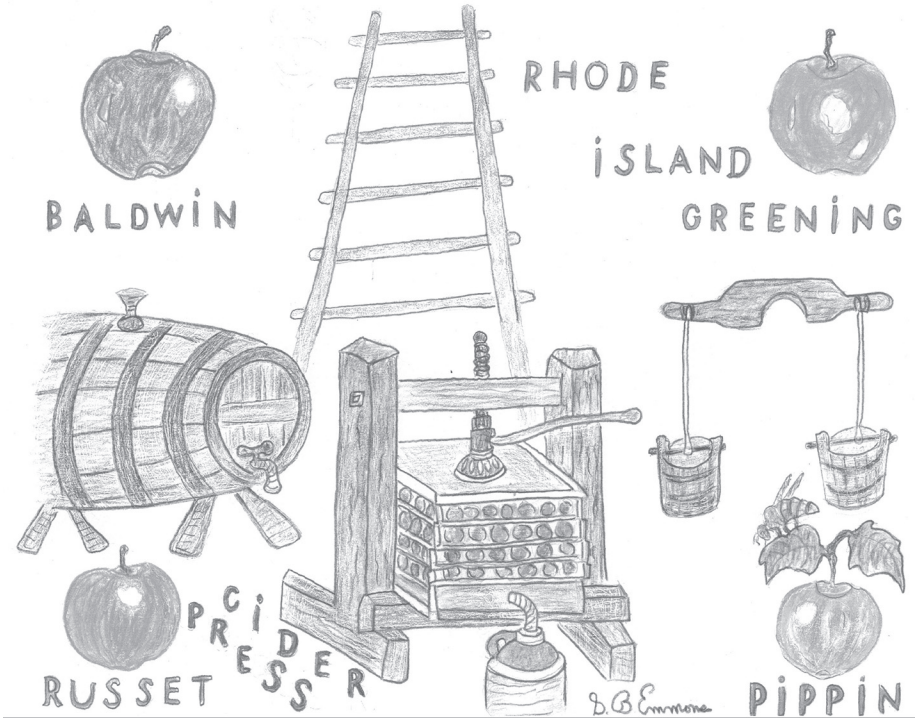
Colonial Cider Revisited



Four varieties of apple trees have deep roots in the soil of colonial history, brought from England to Plymouth by the first settlers. They were the pippin, russet, Baldwin and Rhode Island Greening, in that order of arrival. Apple cider was the preferred breakfast beverage of our second president, John Adams, and cider making itself was the best way to preserve the annual autumn harvest. After the apple press had squeezed the juice out of the pulp, the seeds were saved for replanting. John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) dried seeds from apple presses and carried them in a leather pouch to plant orchards in the Midwest.

Cider soon developed from a farmhouse drink to sparkling cider, applejack, apple wine, and apple vinegar. It also soon became a standard commodity for barter, and in our local history, the Housatonic deed of 1735 specified three barrels of cider as part of the payment to Chief Konkapot for all the land in these parts. (The payment also included twenty quarts of rum and £460.)

More diversification of apple varieties came with the practice of grafting a new type into the branch of an existing tree, perhaps the nearest thing to cloning. This fall, the ancient trees still standing along the edges of old farm fields and in second growth woodlands have abundant yields because of a moist summer and good cross-pollination by bumblebees.

At the Bidwell House Museum this summer, the old horse barn has been converted into an antique farm equipment center by resident caretaker Chris Caccamo. It is both authentic and appropriate to complement the colonial vegetable garden nearby, as well as the two-hundred-year-old landmark apple tree that looks down and stands guard, preserving the image of an American heritage when cider was a staple of the autumn harvest.

— George B. Emmons

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Letter from College
Still Going Strong …

Twenty-five years ago this month, preparations for a small dairy farm were completed and it soon opened to the public. For a quarter of a century, nestled in the Berkshire Hills, Rawson Brook Farm has flourished and offered what is considered by many to be one of the finest goat cheeses in the country, if not the world. The cheese has won numerous awards over the years, yet the operation remains small and unique, and the success undeniable. Throughout my childhood the farm was an endless source of education, and thanks to the lifestyle my parents chose, I have the honored distinction of claiming the experience as a defining aspect of who I am today.

Someday, if I ever get around to writing an autobiography, it will most likely be titled "From Goat Girl to …" whatever career or title I end up holding by the time my midlife crisis sets in. Home-schooling on a farm with parents who worked at home provided me, as an only child, with a loving and stable environment where I learned with a hands-on approach. The farm was my own personal laboratory since before I can remember. I milked goats, hung and packed cheese, helped during kidding season (when the baby goats are born), worked in the garden (although my efforts were at times counterproductive to my mother's), played in the woods, brook, and hay barns, and even participated in cleaning barn—okay maybe just once or twice. My parents worked hard to build the reputation of the farm, and I cannot recall ever hearing a criticism of it. Even skeptics of goat cheese like Monterey Chèvre.

There is something undeniably powerful about numbers. The last twenty-five years brought challenging times certainly. After my father moved out, my mom learned how to pasteurize, and really do most of what he'd done before. It is of course a huge testament to my dad's impeccable skills and helpful nature that he is always willing to offer advice and help solve any issues that come up. Mom says, "No one does a better job than your dad," and it shows time and again. The farm itself is the product of their combined artistry and design; the eighty-three days of clearing for pastures and a construction site, the sketches of the barn by my mom, the laboring to construct the buildings, and the distinct touches: a milking stand with old army helmets as grain bowls.

Farming is never an easy business to do long-term, and many struggle to make it viable. These days, starting a business like this one is largely unthinkable. My mom is a smart businesswoman; some days she may deny this, but as I get older I realize how true it is. The farm is more than a fulltime job, as it can often require sixteen-to-eighteen-hour days. There are repairs to be done, animals to be kept in the best health possible—and the goats are quite frankly the most spoiled of any animals I know—not to mention the constant staff management and training, and the countless hours of paperwork required to keep the farm on track. Twenty-five years and still going strong speaks volumes about all the individuals that make it happen. Mom often remarks that she knew early on some careers were not meant for her. She likes that the farm never stops demanding her to learn new things; she is never bored. I am constantly thankful that she made certain choices and decisions early in life.

This month's column is still under the heading "Letter from College," but up here in Middlebury, this special event is at the forefront of my mind. For this piece, I wanted to hail the contributions of everyone who helped Rawson Brook Farm reach the remarkable milestone it celebrates this month. These individuals are of course our family, and every employee, intern, and friend, most of whom are considered our extended family. The results of my parents' hard work is a product that is widely renowned, and highlights the results of such dedication and perseverance. I've always liked being the Goat Girl. Even as I get older and create my own identity in the wider world, I know I will carry the lessons and experiences of this extraordinary life with me wherever I go. Congratulations Rawson Brook Farm on an astounding twenty-five years, and heartfelt kudos for bringing such joy and offerings to the Berkshires and beyond!

— Tarsi Dunlop

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I'm Just Not Sure

Primum, non nocere. First, do no harm.

This is the watchword of the medical profession. Although often thought to be part of the Hippocratic oath, it is actually of uncertain origin. Some scholars believe Hippocrates may have developed the concept in another document, while others maintain that it was advanced by Galen, a second century Greek anatomist whose flawed work was considered authoritative for several centuries. Whatever the source, the admonition to avoid harming patients remains a primary consideration in every physician's thinking.

Despite the best of intentions, however, medicine is an imperfect science. Medications have side effects, surgery has complications, mistakes are made. It has been estimated that until the early part of the twentieth century, the average patient, seeing the average doctor, had better than a 50-50 chance of getting *worse*. Given the use of leeches and various other scientific misconceptions of that era, this isn't hard to understand. The applicable term here is "iatrogenic," meaning "doctor induced." Medical students and practicing physicians are cautioned repeatedly about this concept, "first do no harm," sometimes to the point where those lacking experience, or confidence, can be paralyzed by inertia.

During my stint in the Navy, one of my colleagues had this problem. No matter how obvious a diagnosis might be, this insecure, overly cautions doctor just couldn't pull the trigger. If he saw someone with a sore throat, he insisted on a complete history and physical exam, multiple lab tests, and page after page of extensively documented notes in the chart. His typical caseload for a full day would be no more than five or six patients, forcing other physicians in the clinic to pick up his share. There was a definite element of resentment because of this, but it was also understood that he was doing his best despite struggling with demons.

On one particularly busy afternoon, I got a call from him—I'll call him Harry. The conversation went like this:

"Hey, Dave, I wonder if you could help me out with a diagnosis over here in the clinic."

I glanced at my packed appointment schedule and was tempted to put him off, but then I remembered his reputation, and my heart softened. "Sure, Harry," I answered. "What's the problem?"

"Well, I have this patient who's late for her period," he began. "Her commanding officer sent her in because she's gaining weight and they suspect she's pregnant, but I'm sort of concerned about committing to the diagnosis."

"Why is that?" I asked.

"Because if she's really pregnant, they're going to kick her out of the Navy."

"I see," I said. "So how far along do you think she might be?"

"I'm thinking she might be seven or eight months," he answered soberly.

"You mean *weeks*, don't you? Seven or eight *weeks*?"

"No, she looks like she's pretty far along. Seven or eight months, I think."

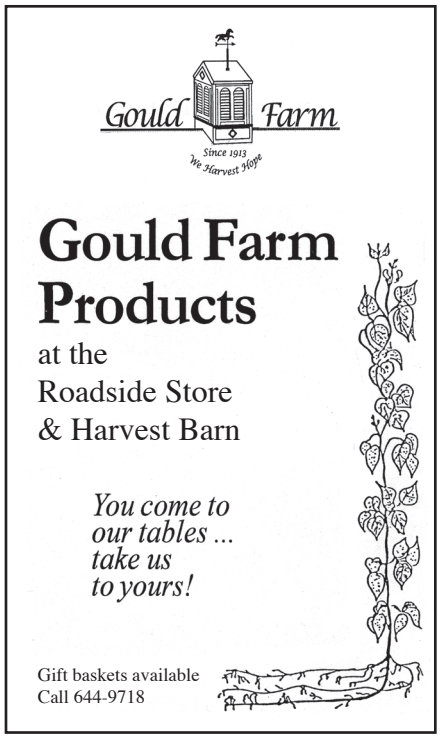
I resisted the impulse to laugh. Harry's indecision might have been ludicrous, but he was a vulnerable guy who could be deeply wounded by a belittling response. I cleared my throat and spoke as evenly as possible, carefully weighing my words.

"Uh, huh. So what's holding you back from making the diagnosis?"

"Well, her abdomen's enlarged and everything, and I think I can feel the baby's head, and I'm pretty sure I can hear a fetal heartbeat, but I'm just not sure, you know what I mean? I don't want to make a mistake that'll ruin her career."

I took a breath. "Okay, Harry, I'll be right over there."

As I entered the examination room I stopped short. The patient was lying on her back, facing away from the door so that I couldn't see her face, but even from



that perspective her abdomen was huge, so much so that a drape the size of a beach towel was barely adequate to cover her. Then, before I had a chance to introduce myself, the drape began to move! An unmistakable ripple of fetal movement coursed across it, actually strong enough that it nearly fell to the floor. I put my arm around my colleague's shoulders, led him into his office and closed the door. "Harry," I said, thinking even he would see the humor in this situation, "I think it's safe to say she's pregnant."

My demeanor turned to contrition, however, when he lowered his head. I worried that I had embarrassed him, but he turned to me with an earnest expression and thanked me profusely for helping him with his diagnostic dilemma. I shook his hand and left with mixed emotions, wondering how this decent but hopelessly conflicted man could ever make a living in a world of high volume practice. When I called later to check on him, his nurse told me that it had taken him another thirty minutes to complete his paperwork. For the remainder of that afternoon, he managed to see only two more patients, neither of whom had anything worse than a stuffy nose.

Of course, no one is sure of himself in every case, and for years afterwards, when I heard the phrase, "First do no harm," or when I personally vacillated while struggling to commit to a diagnosis, I thought of Harry. Even when there might have been a valid reason for my indecision, I could hear his imploring phrase:

"I'm just not sure."

— David Shifrin

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Lukeman Studio Open October 4th & 5th

The first weekend in October (the 4th and 5th) sculptor Augustus Lukeman's studio at 3 Lukeman Lane in Stockbridge will be open to the public for friends and interested parties to stop by. It is a small artist's studio, under restoration, that was built around 1908 by Lukeman and patterned after nearby Chesterwood. The sculptor Daniel Chester French, who worked and lived at Chesterwood, was Lukeman's mentor and associate. The studio has been in continuous use as a working art studio by the same family for 100 years, first with sculptor Augustus Lukeman, then with stained glass artisan Fred Leuchs of Monterey, and now with sculptor Catherine Leuchs Bohrman.

This year Augustus Lukeman's sculpture portfolios were added to the Smithsonian Institute's American Art Archives. A prolific sculptor, his most noted project was Stone Mountain in Atlanta, Georgia, but he did numerous works locally, nationally, and internationally, including the War Memorial in Pittsfield, the McKinley monument in Adams, and the General William Shephard monument in Westfield. He is one of the few sculptors with two major pieces in Statuary Hall in the US Capitol, Jefferson Davis and James Z. George, and he designed the backside of the Pulitzer Award Medal (www.pulitzer.org/theMedal). Lukeman's mold for the medal is the Pulitzer collection at the Newseum, in Washington, DC.

Currently one of late stained-glass artisan Fred Leuchs' five daughters, Catherine Leuchs Bohrman, uses the studio. She is a professional sculptor who grew up in Monterey (www.catherinebohrman.com), and her mother and sister still live in Monterey. Fred Leuchs, who died in 1999, designed, created and restored stained glass windows for some of the country's most prominent institutions and homes. His works include the US Library of Congress, George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, St. Bartholomew's Church, Picasso House, the Strauss Memorial, the Cloisters, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Locally he did the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and a window for St Paul's Church in Stockbridge, two interior panels for the Bousquet Ski area in Pittsfield, and restoration on many churches in the area (frederickleuchs.com).

On Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Catherine will be holding her annual working open house at the studio alongside the works of her late father as well as the maquettes (small plaster models) of Lukeman's sculptures, all created in the same space over the past century. For more information: 203-629-8533, 413-528-0244, or email catherine@bohrman.com.

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Matthew Christopher

I cannot weep
the tears are frozen
and will not come

I cannot weep
for the memory of the toddler's eyes
the color of happy skies

I cannot weep
at the sound of bagpipes along the way
that with his mother he learned to play

I cannot weep
at his hair color of every hue
and lengthy dreadlocks, too

I cannot weep
for Emily who gave him friendship and above
with her teenage love

I cannot weep
as cousins Spencer, Josh and Andrew will
for a space they cannot fill

I cannot weep
with the family girls with whom in his gentle way
he would take the time to play

I cannot weep
with parents, Suzanne and Tom
their only child is gone

I cannot weep
but I need the tears to release
like gentle rain upon the earth to help the pain to ease.
perhaps they'll come

— Gige O'Connell

Matthew Gloyd Christopher
1988-2008

A beloved son and grandson, Matthew Gloyd Christopher died September 3 in Middletown, CT. He was a lifelong resident of Middletown and a senior at Middletown High School. He spent his junior year in Hat Yai, in southern Thailand as a Rotary Club International Exchange Student.

He was the son of Thomas Christopher and Suzanne O'Connell, who grew up in Monterey, and the grandson of Gige O'Connell of Curtis Rd.

As young boy he was a frequent visitor to Monterey. One time he purchased chickens from Gould Farm and started an egg business in his home neighborhood. He also raised exotic chickens and chinchillas.

He leaves behind many aunts, uncles, and cousins as well as loving friends.

A celebration of his life was held Saturday, September 27, at Beckam Hall on the Wesleyan University Campus where his mother is a professor.

Donations in Matthew's memory may be made to: Attention: Matt Christopher Scholarship, Bushy Hill Nature Center, PO Box 577, Ivoryton, CT 06442 (http:lwww.bushyhill.orgl) or Green St. Art Center, 51 Green Street, Middletown, CT 06457 (http:/www.greenstreetartscenter.orgl).

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Saturday, October 4: Annual Pumpkin Fest and Heirloom Garden Harvest. 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, 413 528 6888. Family fun. See p. 9.

Friday, October 10: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, 2 p.m., Monterey Town Hall.

Saturday, October 11:

Open poetry night, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. Share your poems. See p. 10.

Author Simon Winchester discusses his riveting new book, *The Man Who Loved China,* 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, $20. See p. 15.

Talk by John Demos on his new book *The Enemy Within: 2000 Years of Witch-Hunting in the Western World,* Bidwell House Museum, 10 a.m. $10 members; $15 nonmembers. See p. 9.

Monday, October 13: Columbus Day Closing Event at the Bidwell House, 10 a.m. George Emmons will lead a walk to the site of First Meeting House and to Indian cairns, followed by cake to celebrate Rev. Bidwell's birthday. Donations accepted. See p. 10.

Wednesday, October 15: Community Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement. Program by adventure photographer Dudley Levenson. See p. 7.

Tuesday, October 21: Free Health Screening, CHP, 10 a.m., Town Hall.

Friday, October 24: Friday Film at Sandisfield Arts Center, 7:00 p.m. *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil,* documentary, 53 mins. Information: 529-9385.

Saturday, October 25:

Halloween Harvest Party, 3 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Free, sponsored by Park Commission. See p. 5.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Peter Stix. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Info 528-9385.

The Observer

August 26 – September 25

High temp. (9/5, 6)	80°
Low temp. (9/20)	36°
Avg. high temp.	69.6°
Avg. low temp.	50.7°
Avg. temp.	60.2°
Total rainfall	5.03 in.

Rainfall occurred on 11 days.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions.

Peter Deanna & Matthew Curtin
Louise Henry
Eileen Clawson
Kyle & Don Pierce
Judy Bach
Rocky Greenberg & Susan Popper
Gail Padalino
Jean Spining
Susan Protheroe
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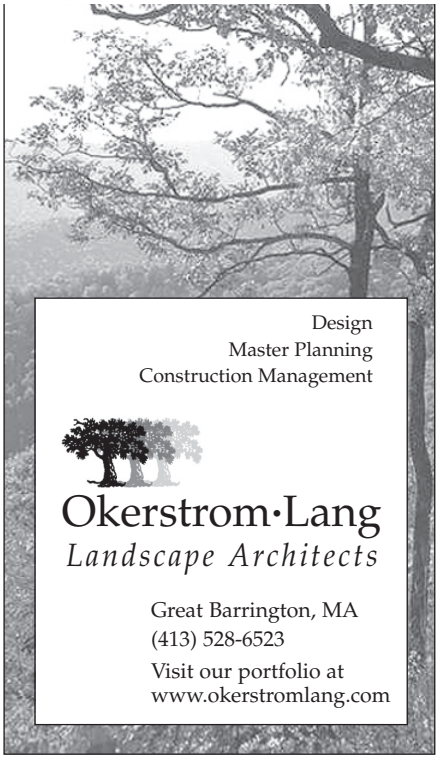
Sunday Brunch & Holidays: 9 AM – 3 PM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Contributions from local artists this month: Maureen Banner, pp. 7, 12, George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Neil McGinnis, p. 4.

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